Learning log #1

It seems as though every class that I have had at JHU has at least “touched upon” IDEA, Section 504, No Child Left Behind, etc. I understand the importance of learning and having an understanding of these laws and regulations, but it wasn’t until completing our web quest activity that I saw it from another’s perspective (i.e. the parent). I currently work in a private special education school, where all of our students have an IEP as well as related services including physical therapy, occupational therapy, mental health, speech and language, behavioral intervention plans, etc. All of our students also receive the necessary academic and testing accommodations and modifications needed to make the student as successful as possible while being able to access the general education curriculum. Making sure that my students receive the necessary accommodations and modifications is part of my job and comes as second nature to me because I intuitively understand why they need it. However, because I work in a private special education institute, I haven’t encountered the parent of a student without disabilities who “complained” or didn’t understand the need for certain accommodations/modifications for other students – thinking that it’s not fair that another child is allowed to have a calculator, when their child is not.

Being able to create a mock pamphlet for parents of general education students was a really good experience for a few different reasons. Firstly, it allowed for me to refresh upon the laws, which only reaffirms why I do what I do. Also, being able to teach others (parents) the importance of these laws really helped me to see another’s perspective. But when the information was broken down into parts, and the parents were able to see how these laws/regulations benefits both general education and special education students, it resulted in more understanding on both sides of the spectrum.

I also enjoyed the wide variety of presentations. It seemed as though every group took the assignment in a different way, which allowed for variety and further depth of understanding. Everyone seemed to touch upon different aspects of the laws, their meaning, as well as different interpretations in how they would present it to parents, which I found to be very interesting.

This wiki space thing is all very new to me and I am trying to learn the basics…..I never even knew that this type of thing existed, but I think that it will definitely be helpful and resourceful in many ways….and more than just for this class.